



Rumpole and the Golden Thread

John Mortimer

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Rumpole and the Golden Thread Details

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From Reader Review Rumpole and the Golden Thread for online ebook

Beachlady says

My first Rumpole and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Rumpole's grumpy, clever way to solve a mystery that includes no graphic sex or violence is a shock in this day of exploding bombs and assassins. I'm also currently into Daniel Silva and his Gabriel Allon stories where there seems to be just enough violence. I find myself lapsing into the Rumpole-ist style of writing this morning as I complete my Morning Pages. Onward to more Rumpoles.

Gray says

I love this man.

Vicki Cline says

This collection had a couple of really interesting stories. In "Rumpole and the Golden Thread" he has to go to an African country to defend a politician on a murder charge. And in "Rumpole and the Old Boy Network" we meet the new head of chambers (not Rumpole, alas), Sam Ballard, who replaces Guthrie Featherstone, who's been elevated to judge. Having watched the TV series, it's very easy to visualize the action. Leo McKern was just perfect in the title role.

John Machata says

References to Hamlet and PG Wodehouse...Rumpole parsing the English language in a thoroughly old fashioned manner... I am ashamed that have not anointed other works by John Mortimer with 5 stars. If you can read this without smiling, you need a long vaca in Samarkand or at least a large dose of the plonk, Chateau Thames Embankment from Pomeroy's Wine Bar!

Lynn Kearney says

I don't know how I missed this one. It reminds me ow good the series is and makes me want to go back for a re-read and a re-watch.

mark monday says

the title story manages to weave old-fashioned morality, English legalese, colonialism, and the need for

African independence into an inoffensive little mystery. but is that a valediction or a condemnation? this take on a loaded topic is certainly tasteful and wryly amusing. but should it be?

in general, Rumpole's timeless appeal continues to elude me - *She Who Must Be Obeyed* notwithstanding. the stories featuring his adventures are pleasant and innocuous; the gentle liberalism is enjoyable. but overall: forgettable.

Mack says

For me Rumpole stories (written by ex-lawyer John Mortimer) will forever be stories about familiarity and comfort, both because those motifs appear repeatedly throughout the series, and because they evoke those feelings within myself. Rumpole the aging defense lawyer is happiest with the Oxford Book of English Verse (which he quotes with aplomb), a stubby cigar and a bottle of cheap wine. As he strives to acquit each and every client he takes on (no matter how nefarious or cold-hearted they appear to be), he maintains his twin beliefs in the golden thread of justice (that we all must be judged as innocent until proven guilty), and that we live in a world of petty indecencies that the educated among us must endure.

To me, Rumpole always sounds like Leo McKern, in large part because I heard the Australian actor reading the stories while bouncing along Montanan highways and byways in our family minivan. But he will always remind me of my father, a big and burly man who giggled at jokes I didn't understand and got a wistful look in his eye when the poetry started to course its way through the main character's monologuing. I love the idea of a noble, true, unflappable lawyer devoted to asserting the power of the human mind and the human soul. These are lofty ideas, but they sound every bit as good in McKern's voice as they did during my father's lectures. Walking about London you see those same ideals, high peaks, noble, sturdy architecture designed to endure, and in so doing manage to impress. Sure there are new flashes of steel and gleaming glass, but the core of London is as eternal as it ever was, and as consistent as Rumpole himself.

This collection fell a little shy of my normal fondness. Two stories relied on the sort of "aha" revelations by confessing witnesses that feel more at home in an episode of *Matlock*. One of them sent the titular defender of innocence to a fictional African country that felt more like a hodgepodge of uncomfortable post-colonial stereotypes than good ol' Mr. Rumpole story-telling. In all they weren't my favorite Rumpole stories.

But they were Rumpole stories, and they were Rumpole stories that I was reading in the thick of the city, popping up the steps from the tube onto Tottenham Court Road or wandering down the byways past Fleet Street and the Old Bailey. It let me feel right at home in a foreign land, and I expect it will do the same for anyone else who picks the stories up generations from now.

Sandi says

Rumpole travels to Africa, takes on the art world, defends a country squires, and figures out an ingenious way to collect the fees that are owed him in this collection of short tales, read by **Bill Wallis**, featuring the always entertaining legal eagle and his cohorts.

Bill Porter says

Well done Horace. Well played SWMBO.

Sam Wilkinson says

I do enjoy a good Rumpole story, and this one is no different.

Sometimes though, Horace is a bit dim, and can be somewhat frustrating. Luckily, it usually turns out alright in the end, and it's comical on the way.

David Weinfeld says

Good old Rumpole, he still has a technique of getting what he wants and seems to always win. This is 3 short stories, all good.

Stephanie says

If you remember the PBS series "Rumpole of the Bailey" starring Leo McKern, then here is the source material for that delightful program.

Rumpole is perhaps the most loveable curmudgeon in the literary realm. He is a barrister with no ambition whatsoever other than winning each case. He is married to Hilda, a daughter of a far more ambitious barrister turned judge, who looks at her husband with jaundiced eye as he lets opportunities for advancement pass him by.

But it's no nevermind to Rumpole, a connoisseur of cheap wines and fine English verse. He strides through life at his own pace, confounding adversaries like Judge "The Bull" Bullingham and quietly but gleefully throwing a wrench into the plans of anyone who would get in the way of him winning his case.

My poor words cannot adequately describe Rumpole and his delicious mischief, but if you read this collection, you'll be hooked.

This book includes the following short stories:

Rumpole and the Golden Thread

Rumpole and the Genuine Article

Rumpole and the Old Boy Net

Rumpole and the Female of the Species

Rumpole and the Sporting Life

Rumpole and the Last Resort

Laura says

From BBC radio 4 - Drama:

In Africa defending an old pupil in a murder trial, Rumpole is arrested and Phillida arrives to bail him out. A spark between them is rekindled and burns throughout the final episodes of this long running Radio 4 series.

For fifteen years and 33 episodes, Rumpole has fought, won and, very rarely, lost myriad cases - and fallen in and out of love with his wife Hilda and

"the Portia of our Chambers", Phillida Trant, who adores him, and probably always will. These three final episodes leave us guessing until the very end - will Rumpole finally leave his wife Hilda, "She who must be obeyed", for Phillida?

Adapted by Richard Stoneman

Directed by Marilyn Imrie

A Catherine Bailey production for BBC Radio 4.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0b1...>

Mike says

I love Rumpole, and recommend all of the Rumpole books to anyone who will listen...this particular book is not the best of the Rumpole books, but it still has a couple funny stories: Rumpole and the Last Resort is good, and one of the stories takes place in Africa -- which automatically makes it better! :)

Ray Francis says

Rumpole is always a good read. He's crotchety and devious, but he goes about chambers and the court with heart and courage -- especially if the chips are down and the judge is a pompous blow-hard in need of a thwacking.
